

Application No.: 09/974,524

Docket No.: OSTEONICS 3.0-415

REMARKS

Entry of the foregoing amendment prior to an action on the merits is requested. Applicants have made various minor changes for clarification as well as for correction of typographical errors. More specifically, with regard to the claims, Applicants have amended independent claims 1, 17 and 31 and added new claims 47-49 to more fully claim the invention of the present application. No new matter has been added.

In view of the above, it is respectfully requested that these amendments now be entered, and that prosecution on the merits of this application now be initiated. If, however, for any reason the Examiner does not believe such action can be taken he or she is respectfully requested to telephone applicants' attorney at (908) 654-5000 in order to overcome any additional objections which the Examiner may have.

If there are any additional charges in connection with this requested amendment, the Examiner is authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 12-1095 therefor.

Respectfully submitted,

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